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SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - October 19, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussions of Saddam's trial and its significance in conjunction with the constitutional referendum were the major editorial themes of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on October 19, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES  
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[1A.](#) "No One Cares About Saddam's Trial"  
(Editorial from the Saudi Al-Watan newspaper, posted on Iraq 4 All News - <http://iraq4all.org/viewnews.php?id=10376> )

"The curtains are open, the actors are ready, but the audience is busy with something else. Today is the first day of Saddam Hussein's trial, and the long awaited tribunal seems to have lost its glamour. It has been a long time since the fall of the Ba'ath regime and it seems that Iraqis have realized that Saddam's reign ended with the fall of his statue in April 2003. In these critical times Iraqis are indifferent to Saddam's trial; they would rather question the repeated power outages and water shortages, and concentrate their efforts on finding jobs and improving security conditions.

"The U.S. media machine might suffer terrible consequences after promoting Saddam's trial; even assuming that most Iraqis hate Saddam, they also hate the way things have turned out. Sunnis, in particular, hate the U.S. occupation and the disrespect toward Iraqis.

"Describing Saddam's trial as ridiculous might be as accurate as possible. The defense team's absence during certain proceedings as well as accusations of neglecting legal procedures by the court will result in a chaotic trial that is more of a political play than anything else, and will fail to meet international standards.

"The U.S. has exploited Saddam's trial to serve its interests; it also tried to extend the trial to strengthen its presence. The idea that the trial's results will support U.S. plans is questionable, especially if we take into consideration the trial of Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic, which had no positive effect whatsoever on the presence and reputation of international forces in Serbia."

[1B.](#) "Saddam Tells Tyrants to Beware"  
(Editorial by Sarum Al-Faili - Sawt Al-Iraq - "The Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieuws.php?id=17679> )

"Saddam will stand trial today in front of Iraqis. There will be photos and footage of the man who previously put all courts of justice on hold and ran everything through his military intelligence [apparatus]. Today the tyrant stands without power, wealth, or good deeds. God willing, he will be condemned to hell and go on to remember the many crimes that he committed, including the gassing of Muslim Kurds.

"Let's turn this trial into a triumph of the weak who were unable to take a stand for themselves, into a rejection of sectarianism, racism, and bloody Ba'athism embodied in Saddam. Today, rationalism, realism, diversity, and democracy emerge victorious; Saddam was their enemy. It is the moment of justice for many lives raped; bodies torn apart; many widows; grieving mothers; and orphans suffering fear and deprivation. By trying the tyrant, we condemn those who contributed to-or overlooked-the suffering of innocent people.

"I am sure that all tyrants will spend their nights haunted by the suppression of their nations after seeing Saddam in the defendant's cage. It might be an opportunity for them to change, but a very difficult opportunity for those in power

and those who seek to regain it in Iraq."

1C. "From Referendum to Saddam"  
(Editorial by Ja'far Mohammed Ahmed - Independent Iraqi News  
Agency - <http://www.normal.iraq-ina.com/showarticles.php?id=1492> )

"The constitutional referendum passed more peacefully and calmly than expected. There were some attacks, but they were minor compared to the lethal explosions in the preceding days. Iraq chose democracy in its own unique way-not as American President George Bush would like. Iraqis went to ballot boxes and said their words regarding the constitution. They chose the weapon of words rather than bombs and bullets.

"Iraqis used the referendum to prove that they are the opinion-holders and they determine Iraq's future, not the American occupation that deceived them with false promises and dreams that turned into nightmares. [American] falsehoods were revealed just like the weak justification used to invade Iraq. Iraqi people challenged the difficult conditions and threats and practiced their rights to vote and express their attitudes.

"Participation in the voting process, and Sunni participation after realizing the huge mistake of boycotting elections last January, confirmed the need for national reconciliation and.[the need for] Amr Musa's visit to Baghdad. All should work to make this initiative successful; it will lead Iraqis toward reconciliation, without which Iraq will not rebuild or reform.

"Iraqis overcame the constitution battle and now they face former president Saddam Hussein's trial, which begins on Wednesday. It is undoubtedly an exciting trial and it will bring back painful memories and anger. The paradox is that the trial, which took so long to begin, comes four days after the constitutional referendum. Will it pass peacefully, unaccompanied by bloody, violent acts that deepen Iraqi wounds and return Iraq to the very beginning?

"Between the referendum and Saddam's trial, Iraqis, along with Arabs and Muslims, hope Iraq will move beyond the painful past and bring back security, which has been lost during the American occupation. The referendum's result is the people's decision; Saddam's trial is the responsibility of the judiciary."

SATTERFIELD